

**Mary Jean Burke**, is the First Executive Vice president of AFGE's National Veterans Affairs Council (NVAC).

After growing up on a farm East Central Illinois, "MJ" as she likes to be known, became a physical therapist and joined the VA in 1995. Her labor career began at AFGE Local 609 in Indianapolis, IN, when it was consolidated to represent the professionals at the Richard Roudebush VA Medical Center.

In 2002, the NVAC appointed MJ to serve as a National Safety Representative. She was elected as the NVAC 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Vice President in November of 2007, and is currently serving her fourth term in that position. MJ is an active member of the Legislative Committee, the Grievance and Arbitration Committee, the National Hybrid Collaboration Team, and is a member of the National Partnership Council. She was also a member of the NVAC Negotiating Team for the 2011 and pending 2023 Master Agreements.

MJ graduated from St. Louis University with a BS in Physical Therapy in 1988. She obtained her certification in Athletic Training in 1995, doing her clinical hours at Tennessee State University from 1992-1994. MJ feels representing the over 291,000 VA workers who service, support, and celebrate our Nation's heroes is a great honor. She often reflects that choosing to work at the Veterans Health Administration, was one of the best decisions of her life.